WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 8 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | DECEMBER 1999

"Corporations are artificial entities created by law...It has long been recognized... that the special status of corporations has placed them in a position to...dominate not only the economy but also the very heart of our democracy." Thurgood Marshall

Interview with Donna Ventiem

Hot-Mix Asphalt Plant in Nisqually Basin?

Margaret Love

Recently, WIP interviewed Donna Ventiem, a 10-year resident of the Nisqually Basin, regarding her concerns about a Lakeside Industries proposal to locate a hot-mix asphalt plant in this rural/agricultural area. The interview took place after a tour of the surrounding area which included several farms, McAllister Springs, a local fishing spot on the nearby Nisqually River, and the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

WIP: Donna, when did you first hear about the Lakeside Asphalt Plant proposal?

I first read about it in *The Daily Olympian* about two days before the deadline for public written response. I believe it was July 26, 1999.

WIP: What are your concerns about the proposed project?

My concerns about the Lakeside Asphalt Plant are both ecologically and esthetically motivated. Number one, the area that the proposed asphalt plant wants to go into is located in the Nisqually River Basin next to the Nisqually River, which has annual flooding. It also houses McAllister Springs, which is where we get our drinking water. Aesthetically speaking, the area is primarily agricultural and rural with our own Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge downstream at the delta area, which is about 2 1/2 miles from the site where Lakeside Industries wishes to locate their asphalt plant.

WIP: Where exactly is the site, and how large an area will it occupy?

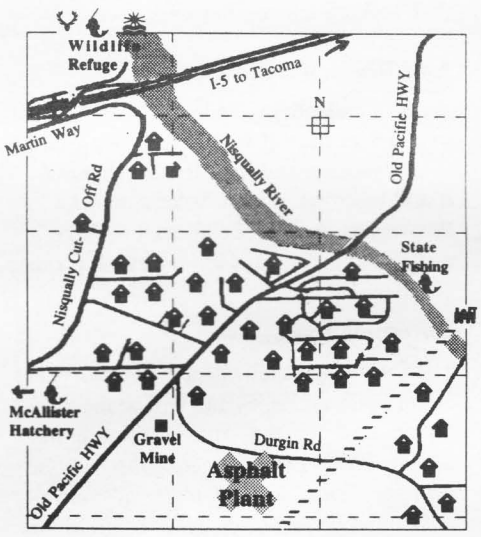
The plant will be located across from the Holroyd Gravel Mine, 11124 Durgin Rd. SE, Olympia 98513, and approximately 15 acres large. It's going to be a "hot-mix" asphalt plant.

WIP: Why is Lakeside considering this site as opposed to another in an industrial zone?

I believe that one of the reasons they're considering this site is because of it's location next to the Holroyd Gravel Mine. The gravel mine supplies Lakeside Asphalt with its gravel in order for it to produce its asphalt, and having the two close together would offer a greater partnership opportunity for both these industries.

WIP: What effect do you think that will have on the surrounding community?

Well, for one thing, the Basin area is approximately two miles in diameter, and everyone knows that asphalt has fumes, fumes which are harmful, and they will



sit down here in the Basin. Also, I think that our groundwater could become contaminated because the groundwater table is approximately fifteen to twenty feet from the surface, especially in the area where Lakeside wishes to locate the asphalt plant.

WIP: How close would the asphalt plant be to the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, and the local farms?

Well, it's approximately one to two city blocks from the nearby farms, and from the National Wildlife area, I'd say it's about two miles, upstream.

WIP: And the distance from the Nisqually River itself?

The Nisqually River runs directly behind

(Continued page 7)

A DSHS Report Card

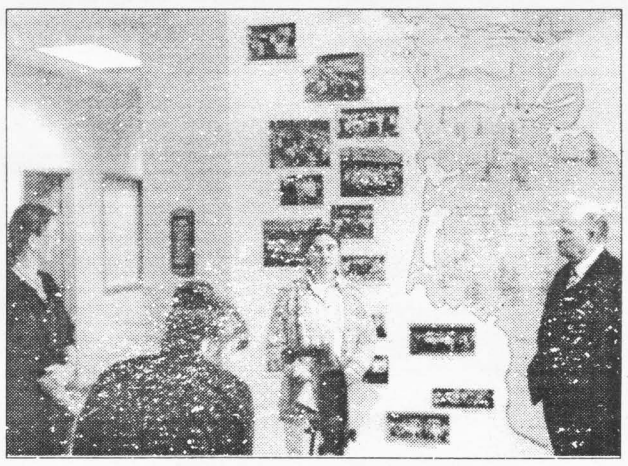
Frank Hoffman

The first of November, Olympia members of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition presented a report card evaluating Department of Social and Health Services performance in the 2nd year of so called welfare reform in this state - from the point of view of participants or clients in the Work First program. They presented this report card, concerning their treatment by area DSHS offices, to Regional Administrator Billie Hartline, in the lobby of his office in East Olympia. A reporter and photographer from The Olympian offices a block down 4th Avenue were also there. There was also this big video camera recording the exchanges between the public assistance recipients and the regional administrator.

Billie Hartline seemed to make an effort to be respectful and listen to the women who talked to him about their treatment by the people he supervises. He said he wanted to be responsive and deal with the issues being raised.

Mr. Hartline was dressed in this really nice and expensive looking dark suit. Very formal looking with a suit pocket hankerchief and matching necktie. Through the lobby windows is a nice view of downtown Olympia and the Blackhills.

The women talked about being treated badly or indifferently by DSHS workers, who seem maybe poorly trained in the new program they are administering. Part of Billie Hartline's response was that the workers see Workfirst as like being in an airplane they are building as they are flying it. Flying an airplane they are in the process of building. The problem, of course, is that this airplane has passengers. And some of them are falling or being pushed out of the plane. There are women and children involved. Not numbers in a press release from the Governor.



DSHS gets a "D" on their Report Card

Billie Hartline said a couple times that the situation was one-sided - the women were doing most of the talking. It seemed to me that the white man in the nice suit had all the power, as usual, and might have the last word. And he probably wasn't taking the bus home, holding a toddler with each of his hands, and balancing a diaper bag over his shoulder.

Poverty sucks. Whether the low income people are in this country or any other. They expect help, understanding and empathy from their government in their time of need. ◆

Community Women Take Back The Night

This guy's report - by Frank Hoffman

The evening of November 4, Olympia women held a Take Back the Night rally and march. There were maybe 60 women and 10 men in the church meeting hall.

There were speeches and songs. Diane Pisco, one of the organizers and m.c., said "We envisioned an event focused on healing for both parties and to create a safe space for all of us." The women lighted candles and went out into the night to march through Olympia and the men stayed behind to talk about male sexual violence against women.

A coworker of mine used to have a sign on her desk that read, "What don't you understand about 'No'?" Being told at the rally that 61% of rapes are committed against women younger than 18 and 1/4 of college women can expect to be raped before graduation, shocked me. Many of the men committing this violence must know the women. This isn't violence between strangers. Why isn't a simple No! enough to make these men stop and go home?

They figure about half of rapes go unreported. Some women must feel that men will be angry at them instead of at the attacker. That they will not be supported by their friends and their community.

I went to this rally because I oppose most violence, particularly this kind of violence. And because 2 friends of mine live in the neighborhood where the rapes occurred this summer and they are afraid. This is intolerable, that they should be afraid whenever they walk alone that some man will hurt them.

However, I do not see myself as some saint or angel. I think of myself as a violent person. I may have taught myself to keep my violence to myself, but I'm violent anyhow. And I'm sexist. And I want to be in control in my relationships. But I've been slowly learning how to deal with all this in myself - and that I have to deal with it. And of course it is a slow, difficult, painful process. Most men I know, regardless of their age, are in this place also. I make these personal comments to indicate I don't see myself

(Continued page 11)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell
Sebastian Chase
Renee Cruickshank
Megan Davis
Frank Hoffman
Teresa Jennings
Jerome Johnson
Margaret Love
Evelyn Montague
Wendy Ortiz
Hali Panneton
Tara Perkins
Jeff Sowers
Marie Smith
Sylvia Smith
Pat Tassoni
Alice Zillah

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Dec. 24th

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, December 28th
6:30pm at Olympia Library
Everyone Welcome!

PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
phone/fax (360) 705-2726
wip@olywa.net

Advertising Info

→ Tara Perkins at 956-9256

→ Wendy Ortiz at 705-2726

Inch Rate $7.50
Business Card $25.00*
5" X 5" $75.00

4 Months for the price of 3
Special Non-Profit Rates

Letters & Briefs

Dentists hard to find

Dear WIP and readers,

Have you ever tried to find a dentist that accepted the DSHS coupon as payment?

I was shocked to discover how arduous a search this is, especially if you are trying to find non-mercury/non-flouride options. Most dentists do not accept the coupon; and the few who do have a wait time of 1 month to indefinite before you can be a new patient.

The only option is to exclusively try the "we accept emergencies" dentists, and hope the care offered is at least humane.

I ask you, what good does it do to offer socialized medicine to the working poor if it is nearly inaccessible?

A better method would be to mandate acceptance of the coupon by ALL medical professionals, drop the HMO runaround, and then set a ceiling on how much the state will pay for various services (including "alternative" treatments like seeing an ND instead of an MD). The coupon holder would then be free to go wherever s/he pleased, and would be responsible to pay the difference if the treatment exceeded the amount the coupon would cover. Even better would be an interest-free loan to ameliorate the difficulty many of us would face in paying that difference.

Now, that would be Welfare Reform.

James Anderson

WIP Election coverage disappointing

Dear *Works in Progress*,

I was disappointed by your October 1999 coverage of the upcoming elections. The only coverage I could find, in fact, was an amusing but uninformative profile of the candidates in the Olympia city council and mayor races (Oly Council Trading Cards). The information expressed in the article was very basic, and much of it was a description of the candidate's favorite band and grocery store; information that I find extremely irrelevant and more in character with a tabloid publication.

A publication that serves politically active individuals should provide the information we need to determine which candidates are the best choice. *The South Sound Green Pages* did an excellent job covering the local elections in their October edition. I hope that *Works in Progress* will take that as an example when they cover the next election.

Sincerely,
Lee Pickett

Robin Hahnel to speak

Robin Hahnel, longtime activist, economics professor at American University in Washington D.C., author of *Political Economy of Participatory Economics* and most recently, *Panic Rules! Everything You Need to Know About the Global Economy*, will deliver two speeches in Olympia.

Thursday, December 2, 1999, 7 p.m. at the United Churches, 110 11th Ave., Hahnel will host an open discussion on "Building a Better World Economy on the Principles of Social Justice." Free childcare will be provided.

Friday, December 3, 1999 noon, TESC library lobby, Hahnel will deliver a formal speech on "The Alternative to Corporate Sponsored Globalization: Fighting for Equitable Cooperation."

Both events are free and open to the public. For information call Peter at 866-6000 ex. 6431. Sponsored by TESC faculty, students and Media Island International.

IT'S A PARTY! not a meeting!

Mumia Abu-Jamal was supposed to be put to death on this day, but with our help and many, many others' throughout the world, he continues to live! That is reason enough to celebrate!

Come celebrate our victories and strategize our future and acknowledge the work that we all do everyday for justice.

Sponsored by the Olympia Mumia Defense Committee. All freedom fighters are welcome.

Thursday, December 2nd
7:30pm til whenever
Bread & Roses, 114 Cherry St.
*POTLUCK - bring something to

(Continued page 11)

Subscription Form

☐ Subscription . . . $25
☐ Please mail *WIP* to me
☐ Donation - $ _____
☐ Tee-Shirt . . . $15 each; # _____ size(s)_____
☐ Catalog/Index Listing...$1; back issues...$1/each

Support Progressive Journalism

If the corporations aren't paying for it, then you have to!

☐ Individual Sustainer ... $35 ☐ Family Sustainer...$45
☐ Organizational/Business Sustainer ... $100
☐ Prisoner Sponsor (sent to inmate) ... $10

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Make A Statement

(XL size available immediately)

The Capitol Theater in Downtown Olympia

Olympia FILM SOCIETY

To receive a program or get information about shows, show times, locations, and prices call 754-6670.

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES

South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

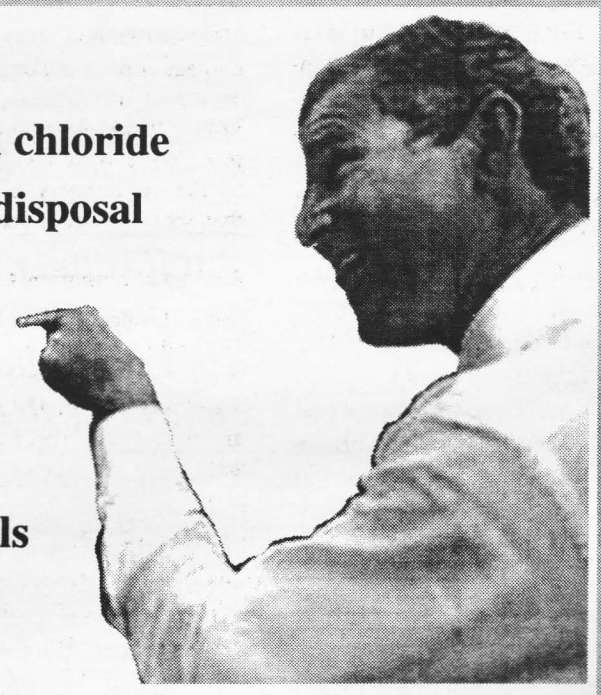
209 East 4th Ave., Suite 206
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 786-6349
speech@olywa.net www.olywa.net/speech

DECEMBER 1999

Governor George Bush, Jr's Environmental Legacy in Texas

Texas is first in the nation in:

- the production of cancer-causing benzene and vinyl chloride
- the use of deep well injectors as a method of waste disposal
- counties listed in top 20 of emitting cancer-causing chemicals
- toxic chemical releases into the air
- the total number of hazardous waste incinerators
- the emission of ozone-causing air pollution chemicals
- environmental justice title 6 complaints
- being the largest sludge dump in the country



"After research showed that 1,000 unregulated, 'grandfathered' industrial plants accounted for a huge proportion of Texas air pollution, Bush opposed legislation that would force the companies to clean up and instead cut a back room deal to install a 'voluntary' program. The heads of these companies include some of the Governor's largest campaign contributors."

Source: Texas Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (www.txpeer.org/bush/index.html)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Under Bush's watch, Texas has deregulated many aspects of its environmental policy, including policies governing wastewater discharges, pesticides, air pollution and even certain types of nuclear waste." P.E.E.R.		NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**1** **1998**: Makah reject proposal to compensate them for giving up treaty whaling rights **1998**: Exxon, Mobil merger announced	**2** **1806**: Pres. Jefferson sends Congress message asking for ban on all slave importations to the US, to become effective Jan 1, 1808	**3** **1995**: Clinton authorizes 700 troops to Bosnia **1998**: WA: State medical marijuana law goes into effect	**4** **1998**: US District Court: lawyers claim continued inadequate health care at Washington Corrections Center for Women
5 **1815**: President Madison requests the authorization of a national public works program **1992**: The new Seattle Art Museum opens	**6** **1998**: Scientists claim industrial pollution from Asia travels thousands of miles across Pacific and degrades air quality over US	**7** **1661**: Under duress from Parliament, Massachusetts suspends corporal punishment act imposing harsh penalties on Quakers	**8** **1998**: Supreme Court rules police cannot search people and their cars after merely ticketing them for routine traffic violations	**9** **1996**: Thurston County Commissioners refuse to take turns in providing shelter in government buildings during cold weather	**10** **1998**: Federal judge rules slot machines are illegal under federal Johnson Act and orders them to be seized from Colville Reservation	**11** **1998**: House Judiciary Committee approves 3 articles of impeachment accusing Clinton of lying under oath and obstructing justice
12 **1961**: Police used tear gas, dogs on mass demonstration of blacks in Baton Rouge **1996**: Sound Dollars enter the local economy	**13** **1998**: Clinton says he will not resign. "It's never crossed my mind." **1998**: Puerto Ricans reject statehood	**14** **1894**: Eugene Debs sentenced 6 months for part in Railway Strike. It's defense attorney Clarence Darrow's first major case	**15** **1998**: The Olympia City Council decides not to add fluoride to city water a month after voters opposed fluoridation	**16** **1998**: Inspectors leave after chief UN weapons inspector claims Iraq uncooperative **1998**: US begins 4-day barrage of Iraq	**17** **1998**: 25 killed, 75 injured in Iraq **1998**: Russia's State Duma denounces "barbarous" acts of US and Britain	**18** **1995**: 1/3 of OPD employees want Police Chief Wurner removed **1998**: WA state to arm all state park rangers with guns
19 **1998**: Clinton halts air strikes against Iraq **1998**: President Clinton is impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice	**20** **1828**: Georgia legislature declares the laws of the Cherokee Indians to be null and void **1780**: England declares war on the Netherlands	**21** **1998**: Iraqi officials report that 62 soldiers were killed, and key missile factories were hit and phone lines severed	**22** **1919**: US deports 250 alien 'radicals' **1998**: Russia, China and France object to the US and British 4-day bombing attack	**23** **1852**: The Chinese colony of San Francisco turns out in force to witness the opening of its own theatre, the first such in the US	**24** **1998**: Washington state Supreme Court rejects challenge to Referendum 48 providing $300 million to build a stadium for Seahawks	**25** **1998**: Data shows Japan's economy continues its downward spiral in November with no indication of a rebound in sight
26 **1956**: Birmingham: mass defiance of Jim Crow bus laws begins **1996**: Ice storm hits South Puget Sound; leaves 1,000s in dark	**27** **1994**: Federal judge issues preliminary injunction preventing Oregon from putting into effect its assisted-suicide law	**28** **1998**: United States warplanes fire on Iraqi military positions in Northern Iraq; four Iraqi soldiers killed and seven injured	**29** **1890**: Wounded Knee massacre in S. Dakota **1998**: Iraq warns that it will fire on US and British planes that fly over any part of Iraq	**30** **1998**: US planes bomb Iraqi missile site **1998**: Federal judge delays order to remove slot machines from Colville Reservation	**31** **1775**: Washington reverses decision, authorizes the enlistment of free African-Americans **1964**: 23,000 US soldiers now in S Vietnam	JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Beyond the WTO Ministerial

Chris Stegman

By the time this issue of *WIP* hits the streets the largest anti-free trade/pro-Fair Trade demonstrations in history will be in full swing in Seattle.

From the "Jubilee 2000" led human chain around the reception site on Monday, Nov. 29—demanding total debt relief for the poorer countries— to civil disobedience and mass demonstrations by led by labor, environmental, human and animal rights activists, small farmers, indigeounous peoples, students and progressives from all walks of life and hundreds of countries, the multiplicity of organizing efforts leading to the "Battle in Seattle" may have successfully slowed down the free trade gravy train.

More importantly, the organizers of the protests have begun to shape a real mass movement for fair trade, workers rights, human dignity and environmental sanity which can begin to show the way forward towards a clean, green and sustainable future to millions the world over. But it is only the beginning of building this movement and our organizing efforts must be protracted if we are ever to turn back the corporate Goliath that is more and more in control of the world's economies.

Where do we go from here?

It's not just radical reform or abolishment of the WTO as it is presently constituted that is needed. Nor the mere "acceptance" by the WTO of minimum standards for labor, human rights, and environmental protection. Nor simply a"seat at the table" from which to be better co-opted into the global corporate agenda.

What is needed is the building of an international and unified movement that can challenge the WTO and it's "free trade" advocates everywhere on a continuous and expanding basis throughout the world. What's needed is the building of alternative progressive political parties willing to run on a program that includes a comprehensive social, political and economic program that points us in the right direction—towards truly clean, green, fair and sustainable economies governed by democratic means.

The job ahead for ALL activists is to sustain and build a unified national and international social/political/economic movement that challenges corporate dominance and puts forward a consistent and clear message regarding what comes first: working people, human rights and environmental protections or corporate profits.

In the U.S. it means building alternative political parties on the left that have the capacity to rally MILLIONS, providing truly progressive candidates with comprehensive programs which point the way towards ENDING CORPORATE DOMINANCE in our economy and in the economies of the world.

The newly forged Labor Party of America is one such party whose time has finally come. The LPA is preparing to run independent candidates on it's program which includes ending corporate welfare, as well as corporate dominance of elections and trade, for universal health insurance coverage and many other platforms which favors working peoples interests over corporate profits. It is based on the organized labor movement and has 12 international union affiliates and thousands of union locals.

But it is only the beginning of this movement and our organizing efforts must be protracted if we are ever to turn back the corporate Goliath in control of the world's economies.

At the first constitutional convention of the LPA in Pittsburg last November (98) Ralph Nader predicted that the LPA had planted the seeds of a great political party. But he said that to become a real political force it needed at least ONE MILLION activist members willing to put their time and money into supporting the party.

The delegates to that convention pledged to double the membership annually to reach this goal. There are currently 20,000 dues paying members (albeit most of whom are not yet activated). If my math is satisfactory it could take as few as 7 years to create such a powerful progressive political party in America that truly challenges corporate dominance.

I invite all leftists, radicals, labor organizers and grass roots activists who care about creating an mass alternative political party to the Democratic Party to join and help build the new Labor Party of America as a step in this direction. The South Sound Labor Party needs YOU in it's ranks.

Chris Stegman is a volunteer TCTV producer of the Progressive Roundtable Forum *which airs Tuesdays at 7pm and Saturdays at 5pm. To join the SSLP branch or to find out more about the Labor Party contact Chris at 705-3528 or email cstegman@olywa.net* ◆

The Olympia Food Co-op

Olympia Food Co-op

Locally Owned and Operated by Your Friends and Neighbors

Announcing "Fast Food" that is good for you from the...

Olympia Food Co-op East
Salad & Sandwich Bar
Open 11:00 - 7:00 Daily

Now Two Locations to Serve You!
The Olympia Food Co-op
921 N Rogers, 754-7666
Olympia Food Co-op East
3111 Pacific, 956-3870

Open every day! 9 AM to 8 PM

In Each Other We Trust

3rd Annual
Sound Exchange
Winter Bazaar
Dec 11 & 12

WE MAKE CHANGE WITH SOUND EXCHANGE

4th and Plum
10 AM to 6 PM
Spend your Sound HOURS
Activities for children, live music, story telling and food!!

Traditions
Cafe & World Folk Art

"Care to know where your money goes?"
Support fair trade with low-income artisans and farmers and you will.

- A center for fairly-traded products from around the world
- A cafe with good food
- A performance space for concerts, classes, forums, and more

300 5th Ave SW, Olympia • 705-2819 • www.traditionsfairtrade.com

"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

Up Front

Reader Response:

Johnson An Imperialist?

Jerome Johnson

Regarding the wars in Kosovo and Iraq, some of my articles have been received with some degree of alarm. One long-time reader wrote me, very worried that I was turning "pro-imperialist."

Let me thank that gentleman, as well as the other concerned folks, for letting me know. I can assure everyone, I'm still the flaming radical I've always been. But I am an Army brat—even though my father died before I knew him—and I've been studying US national security issues for twenty years. Concerning Rwanda, Iraq, Somalia and now Kosovo, I reiterate my belief that NATO should not have intervened. As I said about Cambodia in the 70s, Lebanon in the 80s, and have always said about Africa, we should stay out of civil wars.

If they want to slaughter each other, let them. No one can stop them except themselves, and they won't stop until they want to. The Cambodians had enough after 4 1/2 years and 3 million dead, the Lebanese 15 years and 133,000 dead plus a demolished Beirut, Syrian occupation and Israeli partition. The various African nations are still going at it, especially Angola; Rwanda and Burundi stopped after 1.5 million over three years. Somalia, Sudan are still in flames; Sierra Leone and Congo are in a lull. And so on. I don't mean to sound harsh, but I think non-intervention is best.

Just because I understand how the US/NATO structure works doesn't mean I agree with it! When I was at TESC I majored in this stuff because I wanted to know HOW imperialism works, I wanted more than just the standard "imperialism is evil" party line. Of course it is, but a common mistake among many on the Left is that we automatically hate the military structure for its own sake. Very few of us actually take the time to study weapons systems, chains of command, alliances with other countries, historic links etc. How many Leftists actually tour military facilities, ask pointed questions, get to know military personnel? Not all of them are robots, and many Leftists would be surprised by what they would hear from these folks, especially if you can have a private word. And how many Leftists watch C-SPAN when the House and Senate Armed Services Committees hear testimony from senior officials? Even in open session—especially when they're arguing over funding—you can hear some pretty interesting stuff.

Well, friends, I hope I cleared THAT up! PLEASE keep your comments and critiques coming. Feel free to write me care of WIP, PO Box 295, Olympia 98507. Computer folks, my e-mail is <Sundown103@hotmail.com>

In Turkey, a grieving people dig out and start to rebuild their lives from the rubble.

In Cambodia, United Nations personnel prepare to try former Khmer Rouge officials for genocide and other crimes against humanity.

In Venezuela, a power-hungry president manipulates constitu- tional procedures to make his budding dictatorship legal.

And in Thurston County, citizens, groups, schools and others unite as a community—once again—in a strong stand against hatred and violence. ◆

I can assure everyone, I'm still the flaming radical I've always been. But I am an Army brat—even though my father died before I knew him—and I've been studying US national security issues for twenty years.

When Would Enough Be Enough?
Some Thoughts About Revolution - Part III

by Frank Hoffman

There was a front page picture of State Governor Gary Locke and Bill Gates of Microsoft fame taken at a fundraiser for Locke. Microsoft had just a few days prior been declared a monopoly by a federal court. It used its size to stifle competition and innovation and therefore hurt us consumers by denying us better and cheaper products. And there is our governor with this big grin.

When would enough be enough? This same governor seems to believe there are fewer poor people in the state because there are fewer people on public assistance. Welfare reform is working, he says. His bean counters tell him so.

The Governor appears to be a cynical man. Apparently he and his wife meet socially with the Gates. I wonder if he has low income people to dinner or if he goes to sports events with them. Maybe if he did, he would have a different understanding of welfare reform. It's about people.

Many things in life come down to who you choose for your friends. It makes you take sides. And your actions follow. You stand to defend your friends and their pain becomes yours.

The people in the world who are neither rich nor poor are being asked to choose which side they are on. The rich count on them choosing the rich. Bill Gates makes this assumption. And Locke proves him right. The people supporting the World Trade Organization do. What choice do most of us really have? Who would choose being poor? Instead, we become indentured most of our lives, getting by, hoping we don't get fired, trying to survive in the only world we understand, in the only ways we see available to us.

And the poor hope to join us. To have enough to eat and a safe, warm, dry place to sleep. Which side are you on?

On the side of kindness and justice? To do this requires imagining a world that doesn't now exist. To be a dreamer. Do dreamers kill for their dreams?(Or do they allow others to kill their dreams?) Hitting back is a temporary solution and usually only intensifies the violence.

Maybe for real change to occur, we have to change. To become the kind of people who create the relationships among peoples we imagine in our dreams. Something more fundamental than political parties and ideologies. And we need to remember that Hitler and Stalin and Reagan had very popular dreams. Maybe the kind of world that will be, we can see revealed in how we interact with each other as we try to create that world. ◆

Vic's Pizzeria

233 Division St NW (360) 943-8044

Ana makes a lovely vegan sauce!

Olympia Community Yoga Center

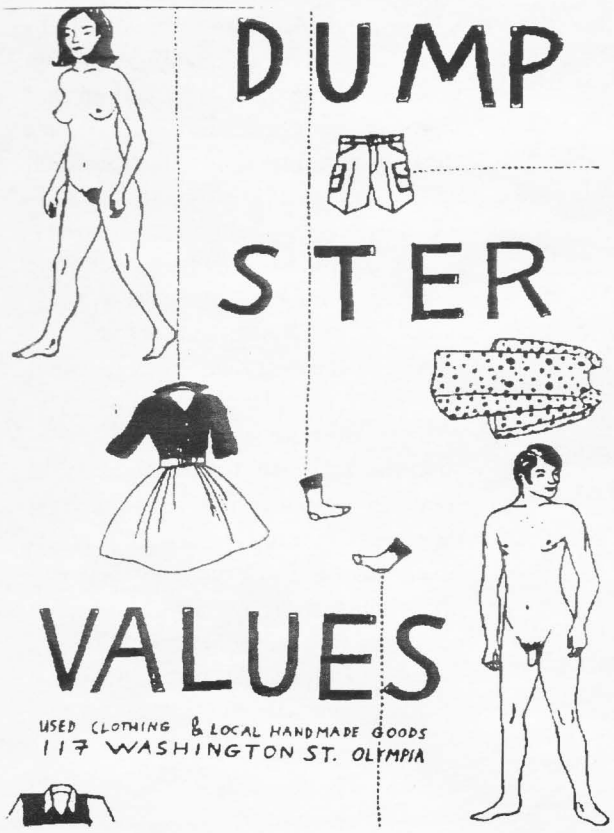
• Yoga Classes • Holistic Studies
• Workshops

1009 E. 4th Avenue, Olympia, WA 98506
360-753-0772
Call us about Work-Study

Something for Everyone!
· Autoclave Sterile ·
· Exotic Erotic Jewelry ·
· Custom Art Specialists ·

TATTOOS PIERCING
ALTERED STATES
ESSENTIAL BODY ART
307 E. 4th Ave
Downtown Olympia
©1997
360-754-6623

Olympia Networking Services
http://www.OlyWa.Net
OlyWa.net
Communicate Globally, Connect Locally!
Proudly providing hi-performance Internet services to the South Sound community since 1995.
OlyWa.Net features: DSL, v.90 Dial-ups, Domain hosting, Server Co-location, Frame Relay, Web design, etc.
204 Quince St. NE #202 Olympia, WA 98501 USA
Call Olywa Today! 360.753.3636



Ramble Imports
202 W. 4th Ave.
Olympia

Crossing the Line

Reflections of a Cynical Optimist

Oral history of Harry Levine
Written by Megan Davis

Harry Levine came to Olympia from Connecticut in 1983, and has lived here ever since. A staff member of the Olympia Food Co-op for 15 years, he also oversees events at the Capitol Theatre and performs with the Mud Bay Jugglers. Together, Harry and Grace Cox make up the Citizen's Band. The pair has also formed a consulting business, which focuses on helping organizations deal with consensus and power dynamics issues.

I moved to Olympia in 1983, so I have been here for- it'll be 16 years this summer. Insanely enough, I moved here because I had a friend who talked about paradise. He was part of the farming program and he said, "Come on out and farm organically". He said, "Come on and move out and we'll make enough money to live on." And it didn't work. He was clearly deluding himself and me. (laughing) I came out and lost my shirt, had no money, didn't really like Olympia... But before I decided to leave town I got a VISTA job to work with an organic farmer's cooperative in Thurston County. I did that for six months or eight months, and then I got a job at the Olympia Food Co-op in 1984.

Then I got stuck (laughs) in Olympia. It was a good reason to get stuck- I had never conceived of working at one job. I just sort of worked to make money, and then I would quit and do something different for a while. When I got the job at the Co-op it was the first job I ever cared about continuing, and so [I] slowly built a life. And then we started a band [the Citizen's Band]. The whole point was political activism. So all of a sudden I went from disliking Olympia to having an amazing life of the Co-op, where we were very idealistic and thought that we were gonna tear down the food system and, you know, change the world. So it was a great place to be.

The Olympia Food Co-op

We're one of the last remaining co-ops that has sort of held onto original values surrounding power dynamics and workplace issues, and also we do a lot of stuff around ethical [issues]... We try to be as ethical as we can in a retail environment, but we're in the capitalist world. I said, when we got into it, "We're gonna rip it down! We're gonna have farmers just pullin' up and delivering their stuff and there's gonna be no middle person and we're gonna take down the corporations." And instead, the opposite happened in the natural foods industry, where the corporations have bought out everybody who was small, every family-owned business, every independent. Organic farmers have to struggle like hell to make a living and the food system has only gotten more corporate and more removed. And we're powerless, because we're just this little piddly, dinkly thing. We're not powerless to try to control our environment, and we can try to sell products that are produced locally, we can try and sell products that are produced ethically and naturally, with packaging that's not offensive, which is what we do. But we're not changing them. They just kind of laugh at us and go, "Oh, that's the Olympia Food Co-op."

You know, we had this dual purpose that the Co-op was to change the world, eliminate capitalism, really, for a while. We don't anymore. I mean, there's no consensus on that. There's people there that are still committed to that, but there's people there who aren't and who are just committed to selling healthy food in a cool way. But also we had this ethic about, "We're creating the model workplace." And that meant collectively managed. We're addressing power dynamic issues. There's always power dynamics and there's always privileges but we're trying to address that head-on. And to improve working conditions. And we did, and now we've created this middle class of Co-op workers! And as we've created a middle class of Co-op workers they've become more comfortable and more complacent. Because frequently what happens is comfort equals complacency. And, you know, you can't be pissed at someone for wanting to sell healthy food, but that's just part of why it's not fulfilling for me as an activist...

Sometimes I lose sight of what [the Co-op] is in relationship to activism, because just making that organism survive is an activist function. It's true. It's because it's a struggle to make a collective operate in the world in which we live.

Power Balancing Acts

I have always felt really strongly that, as a white man with the most privilege in the world, I need to confront other white men. Women don't, and people of color don't. I need to do that. I always felt really clear on that. I would go into Earth First! gatherings, and the men would be at their gender thing, they'd be complaining about how the women were trashing them. And that became my activism too, because I would challenge them and say, "Why wouldn't they trash you? Why wouldn't they trash us? They have every right to trash us. I mean, it's privileged/oppressed, you know. You're sitting there taking it personally and it may not be you specifically they're trashing. But why wouldn't an African-American trash white people? Of course they would." Instead of saying, "Oh, the feminists are just, you know, boy, I can't do anything as a man anymore!" It's like, "Shut up! Just sit down and shut up and stop worrying about [it]."

It's everything about our world in America that's gone to socialize us not to be aware of privilege, to not be aware of power dynamics, not be aware of any of that stuff. And all of us, from privileged on down to the most oppressed, have to work on that stuff constantly, from all the different angles. Because it's overwhelming and it's constant.

How do we work on it? There's not quick solutions to these things. You work on it by acknowledging it. Not being afraid to talk about it. By working on your own stuff inside yourself, whether you're coming from the more privileged place or from the more oppressed place, because if you're in a more oppressed place you've got to work on all the internalized oppression... And if you're coming from the privileged place, you've got to work on all the ways that you hold it, understanding it and how it affects everyone around you. And be willing to learn how to let go of it, truly. There is no answer. We just have to do it, everywhere we go, every situation we're in. I make it my goal to try and be aware of it. I also make it my goal to talk about it when I feel it, to bring it up where I think. Everybody, I think, has to take that attitude.

The Co-op made specific commitments to diversity work. That's a big part of what we do. There's so much to overcome as an African-American person, as a native American person, whatever, to build any kind of trust and belief in a primarily white-run institution.... [But at the Co-op] there are people of color now who say, " I am actually building real trust. Not with everyone, but I have allies. I have white people who are allies for the first time in my life. Who have my back." But it takes time to get to the place where the people of color feel enough trust to go, "I can help create what we have here."

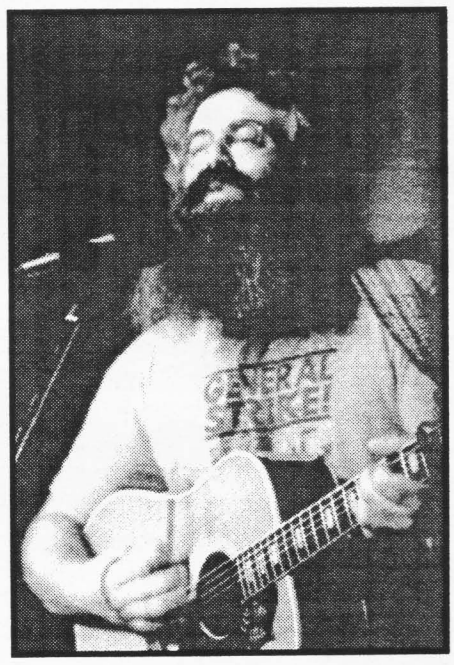
I think it's under-utilized to think about how important trying to organize something with a good structure is. Because that's why the Co-op has survived.

Anarchist Structures and Processes

Basically, I'm a process person. I believe in good process. To me that means thinking holistically about how things should be done, and the ways to do them that most confront power dynamics and most incorporate decision-making with all views held sacred. I think organization and structure are actually things that help create that. [Many] anarchists- of which I consider myself to be one- have this sort of anti-structure, anti-process kind of view, and I actually think that the process is what provides the framework and the common understandings and expectations that allow for a fuller, more equal participation...

We're all strapped and we're all running, and most of our groups don't have any money, and there's all this stuff that makes it hard. But I think it's underutilized to think about how important trying to organize something with a good structure is. Because that's why the Co-op has survived. That's why the Co-op is the last remaining collective on the northwest coast. We're doing all these things they said couldn't be done.

A lot of collectives have, in the 70s and 80s, embraced this kind of... [attitude], like, "Anarchy is everyone just doing whatever they think it should be." I don't think that is. I think individual actions can be irresponsible to the well-being of the group, and frequently are.



You can only deal with power dynamic issues effectively if you create ground rules, if you create the culture of confrontation around that stuff. And it takes work. It's hard.

At the Co-op we have reams and reams of documents about how we work, that we all agreed to consensually. And if we want to change them, we can change them. Anybody can propose changing them, and if they can get us all to agree to change them, then we change them. No one has power over us. And therefore we managed to continue to be effective and to work effectively as we grew from a $600,000 business into a $5 million business, from a five person collective to a 35 person collective. There's no place in the country with two locations that is still working collectively, and we're making it all up! And we make it all up and it works because we have structure.

Cynical Optimism

I call myself a cynical optimist, because I'm cynical about where the world is going, and I'm optimistic about what human beings are capable of when they're able to connect and work. It's really cool what we can do, even despite the world. And that's a good survival mode for me, because... even when the news of the world completely takes me down and I feel powerless and hopeless, I still connect to little things. You have to remember that stuff. You have to remember what we're capable of doing on a small scale, even if it's just getting together with people and standing out on the street with some strikers and playing music, or whatever. There's a million things you can do that just recharge your spirit....

I think that arts are a great way to express yourself emotionally around how you feel about the world, and around your activism. Especially with [Citizen's Band], what's important is humor, which we also thought is a really good organizing tool because you know, you can beat people over the head with facts: "The world is sucking and it's going to hell," which we know. But nobody wants to change because of that. They just shut down. So [in Citizen's Band] we try to educate with humor. And do movement support. Those are the two focuses- in order to support whatever issue that people are working on through benefits or parties or whatever, and then any opportunity we have to perform for people that are not from our community we take, in hopes that maybe one or two or three people will hear it and think, "Oh, there's something else."

Five, six, seven years ago I was a

(Continued next page)

(Cynical Optimist, cont.)

musician and I was like, "I've got to try juggling." I tried it and had an aptitude and [the Mud Bay Jugglers] were like, "We need a stage manager." I said, "Well, you teach me to juggle and I'll be your stage manager." So I started practicing with them and then slowly it grew. I never cared about performing it, and I still don't. I just do it because now that's what the group needs, [and] because I love to juggle. It just feels good. (laughing) It actually just became my soul food. That's how I feed myself because the music is great, but the juggling is meditative for me and it's in my body and I just love it.

[But] I am REALLY cynical! I mean, I don't have tremendous gobs of hope, and frequently- this is probably a depressing answer, in a way- but frequently I root for the end. I root for our species to stop, because I don't hold great long-term hope for us. I don't know what will change us. We have, over history, demonstrated that people are into hurting each other and exerting power over each other. And there's always some people who aren't, but it seems like we're the minority.

But it doesn't make me stop [doing activist work,] because it's all I can identify with. We have to keep going and maybe that moment will come someday when there's enough people who go, "Oh, right! This is fucked up because of how it's all working and running" -- and then it'll change. And then it'll be great.

Cynical optimist. It's gotten me by for years. It works really well...

Faces of Olympia

The building of activist groups that are more, rather than issue-focused, they're more clearinghouse focused, like Media Island and the Liberation Cafe - it's the exact perfect thing to do, because it provides a center for all of the political and social activity [in Olympia]...

Boy, the Liberation Cafe and Media Island have been incredible changes. [The Liberation Cafe] was huge just, what, three years ago. And it's going to be big again. It was just important for me to feel like there was a space that was this clearinghouse of activism, and all the cool things that were going on there, and all the great shows... I just think it's phenomenal, and it's a great way to introduce people to [Olympia's activist community] also, because it gives a face of joy and growth and culture to our movements.

Those institutions, as they grow stronger and stronger, then any person can come in as they get energized or they learn about something, and go, "Wow, I want to get involved in that. Where do you go?" And you go to the Liberation Cafe, or you go to Media Island and there's somebody who's nice [laughing] and helpful, to receive you and make you feel welcome, and not overwhelm you. And give you positive attention. Who cares if you're transient? Who cares if you have four months? There's people who do things in four months that blow away activists of 25 years!

I think we have a really cool community, in lots of ways. There's great potential here. The place of women in our activist community is really strong - and could always be stronger. Also, the growth of the gay and lesbian community and the bisexual community is astounding and wonderful, in terms of an impact on a culture. The fact that there are so many women in this town who can really walk around with [the attitude], "I don't need men," and just how that feels in a town is phenomenal. For me, as a man, how it feels. And I can only imagine what it feels for a woman- not that there isn't tons of work to do.

We're very white, but inside that there's a lot of easy movement amongst hippies and punks and anarchists and socialists and - there's definitely turf stuff, but people work together on a lot of things. And the kids growing up here! I see the teenagers here being exposed to the "do it yourself" stuff of hippies and punks, and walking freely between the communities has this incredible effect. I see a lot of really healthy teenagers. Talk about hope. That's hope. ◆

(Asphalt Plant, continued)

Holroyd's land. It's probably less than a mile from the proposed site for the asphalt plant to the Nisqually River.

WIP: Why do you think the local daily newspaper's notification about this proposal was published so close to the deadline for public input?

I'm not sure if they just wanted to keep it quiet, or if the application was only sent to the Land Use Planning Dept. I'm sure that Lakeside's reason for the proposal not being known until the last minute was to lessen the time available for the public to be up on these things, investigating them as concerned citizens. I just think it was kind of funny that it came out only two days before you could write in your concerns.

WIP: And why would a typical homeowner, or resident of the community, have reason for concern?

Well, for one thing, the fumes. We will be smelling the asphalt plant. For another thing, truck traffic will increase because production will increase. When you have two large industries like this in partnership, the business is bound to boom for the county area. Not only will the hot-mix asphalt be produced, but they will probably also recycle the asphalt from their projects there.

WIP: How will the asphalt plant affect the community under flood conditions?

Chemical solvents are used at hot mix asphalt plants, and the area is prone to flooding. It does flood twice a year on the max, and of course we know that 1996 was one of the worst floodings that have been seen in 100 years. It's not a question of if it will happen, it's a question of when, and no amount of environmental prevention on the part of Lakeside Industries is going to stop the area from becoming polluted when the asphalt plant is flooded.

WIP: Do you know of any attempts to make an Environmental Impact study on this before the project is approved?

That's one of the things I'm hoping will come from public awareness of the proposal. I strongly feel, and I know that a lot of community members strongly feel that an Environmental Impact Statement is absolutely necessary in order to even consider this asphalt plant being placed down here. For one thing, I don't think it would be placed if there was an EIS made, but for another, I think that in this day and age when salmon runs and fresh water are a primary consideration for development, that an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary.

WIP: Is there anything else you think might be important that hasn't been covered so far?

I just hope that people really look at what is happening in this instance. This could affect a lot of other areas currently zoned agricultural and rural, where people try hard to keep their rivers and land clean and unpolluted. The development of the asphalt plant here is really an incompatible land use with the 1992 County-adopted Nisqually Valley sub area plan. It would have disastrous ecological effects when the area floods again. I just hope that people find time to do something even if it's inconvenient during the upcoming busy holiday season. This is their drinking water, it's not just mine. It's Lacey's and the City of Olympia's drinking water, and people need to protect it.

WIP: If people want to know more about this project, where can they find the information?

They can contact the Thurston Co. Development Services at 360.786.5490 or 800.737.7894.

People can contact me at The Nisqually River Restoration Society at 360.413.1645. The Nisqually Tribe is also involved in this and can be reached at their Office, 360.456.5221, or the North End Tribal Center at 360.456.2822.

The Olympian carried articles about it on 8/27/99 and 9/17/99, a day after a residents' meeting was attended by more than 150 people. *The Nisqually Valley News* carried an article stating residents' concerns on 9/24/99, and another article on 10/8/99 gave Lakeside Industry's point of view.

Also, the U.S. Dept. of Labor's OSHA web site contains information on asphalt fumes in general. The address is: http://www.osha.gov/oshinfo/priorities/asphalt.html And an article about polluted asphalt sites in the January 30, 1998 The News and Observer Publishing Company of Raleigh, NC can be found at: wysiwyg://72/http://www.news-observer.com/daily/1998/01/30/nc01.html

WIP: How can people get involved in the fight against locating the asphalt plant here in the Nisqually River Basin?

The best thing would be to write their concerns to *The Olympian*'s Letters to the Editor or to Tammy Trager at: Tammy Trager Permit Assistance Center/Planning 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW Olympia, WA 98502-6045 It is expected that a Public Comment Hearing will be scheduled sometime in December, and people could show up and voice their opinions and concerns there. To be notified when a Public Hearing is scheduled, submit a written request to be put on the mailing list and address it to the address above, or e-mail Tammy Trager with a request to be added to the mailing list for Lakeside proposal info at: tragert@co.thurston.wa.us

Donna Ventiem is an elected member on the Board of the Nisqually River Citizens Advisory Committee and a member of the Science and Ecology Issues subcommittee. She developed and coordinates the Nisqually River Restoration Society, which bases its restoration efforts in the Basin area. She is a graduate of The Evergreen State College with a degree in Environmental Studies, with a focus on salmon biology and conservation, and salmon restoration habitat strategies. ◆

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

"Providing a voice of power and dignity for state employees for over 50 years."

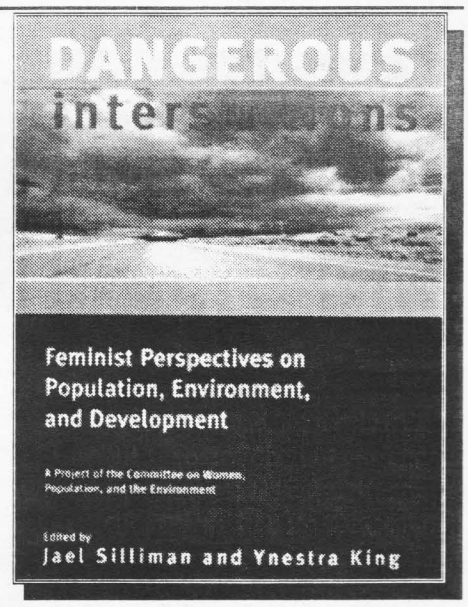
The Washington Federation of State Employees AFSCME • AFL-CIO

Make your impact on the World!

Washington Federation of State Employees
AFSCME • AFL-CIO
PO Box 105 Olympia, WA 98507 Phone 943-1624

Dangerous Intersections

Challenging the Common Wisdom on Overpopulation


DANGEROUS
Feminist Perspectives on Population, Environment, and Development
A Project of the Committee on Women, Population, and the Environment
Edited by
Jael Silliman and Ynestra King

Alice Zillah

In 1999, the consensus among most concerned people in this country is that one of the greatest problems the world faces is overpopulation. This feeling is widespread enough to be shared by both the left and right wing. Al Gore, considered a moderate Democrat, declared, "No goal is more crucial to healing the global environment than stabilizing human population." The US Agency for International Development has defined population growth as a key "strategic threat", thus influencing foreign aid programs that stress birth control over other health needs.

The classic image that summarizes fear about overpopulation is a ticking bomb – the population bomb, exploding every day as more people are born and, in turn, live longer than ever before.

This viewpoint is often shared by progressives as well. After all, by 2050 there will be 10 billion people sharing this planet. We look at a world besieged by environmental problems and disappearing resources, and it seems obvious that there are just too many people for the planet to support. But is this really the case? Is overpopulation really a root cause of social inequality and environmental destruction?

An excellent resource for anyone interested in these questions is the book *Dangerous Intersections: Feminist Perspectives on Population, Environment, and Development*, edited by Jael Silliman and Ynestra King. The book is a collection of essays written by women who are members of the Committee on Women, Population, and the Environment (CWPE). CWPE was formed in 1991 in order to give a collective voice to women who, as professors, writers and activists, wanted to solidify their opposition to worldwide population policy. They have presented their views in policy statements presented at a series of international UN conferences during the 90s.

Questioning the common wisdom on human population is in itself a brave undertaking. One of the first questions that the women of CWPE tried to answer was, "Who is defining the problem – where does the idea of overpopulation come from?"

What they found was that, by and large, the loudest voices on the subject are those of white academics in the U.S. Paul Erlich and John Holdren were two American authors who, in 1974, established a formula that they said could be used to measure the effect that population has on the environment. This formula, known as I=PAT, has been adopted by many environmental and foreign aid groups since then.

Basically, the formula states that if you multiply the number of people (P) times the number of goods produced per person (A), times the pollution produced per good consumed (T), you get the environmental impact.

On the face of it, I=PAT seems to make sense – population, production, and pollution would seem to neatly add up to environmental stress. But in her excellent chapter, "Taking Population Out of the Equation", H. Patricia Hynes reveals the deep flaws in the theory. As she puts it, the problems with I=PAT are that it does not "identify *who* among the universal P is responsible for *what*, and the *how* and the *why* behind much pollution – such as the military, trade imbalances and dept, and female subordination – are outside the scope of the formula."

We look at a world besieged by environmental problems and disappearing resources, and it seems obvious that there are just too many people for the planet to support. But is this really the case? Is overpopulation really a root cause of social inequality and environmental destruction?

Essentially then, I=PAT keeps the problems of pollution anonymous, and ties it to population and production, instead of the political power structures that keep economic dynamics in place.

For instance, Mexico would score poorly on the I=PAT formula, because the country has a large population, manufactures many goods, and considerable pollution results from these manufacturing processes. Thus, some would say that the US should fund programs that provide birth control to Mexican women. After all, if "we" (enlightened people in the US) can lower Mexico's population, then pollution and environmental impact should be decreased too, right?

But the real questions are: Who is consuming most of these products? And the answer, of course, is that those of us in the US consume these products because they are less expensive to produce than American-made products. And who is enforcing the trade relationship that enables us to have these products, such as cheap Mexican-grown tomatoes year-round? Our government. And who is responsible, at least in part, for lowering regulations against the pesticides that are sprayed on the tomatoes, and hurt the farmers as well? NAFTA.

But wait, we started out talking about population – how did we wind up on NAFTA? Because, as *Dangerous Intersections* makes clear, the debate around overpopulation must be fundamentally restructured to be instead a debate about resource distribution, the division between the northern and southern hemisphere, and the overconsumption of resources that we in the US have grown so accustomed to.

If everyone in the world lived in the ways in which many people do in agricultural-based societies, where there is a direct relationship to the land and resources, overpopulation would not be the issue it is. But the planet can't support many people who live like Americans, with air-conditioned cars, fast-food restaurants, and disposable products used at lightening speed.

Why is this a feminist issue? Hynes writes, "Feminists are the group that environmentalists and populationists find the most fractious in the population debate, because feminists will not disengage structural issues of poverty, male dominance, militarism, and consumerism from the population-environment debate." Thus, CWPE's analysis of the complexity of these issues is at odds with those in the environmental movement (such as the group Zero Population Growth) who tend to see population as a controllable number, separate from underlying social justice issues.

It takes a feminist critique to understand how women have become the targets for overpopulation policies. "Family planning" has become the mandate for aid organizations in less developed nations. What this has meant in practice is that birth control has become the first priority of health clinics funded by aid programs, sometimes draining the funds from other areas, such as infant and child healthcare. And instead of funding barrier methods, such as condoms that reduce a woman's risk of getting a sexually transmitted disease (like HIV), instead they provide long-term birth control like Norplant and Depo-Provera. In regions where HIV is still spreading rapidly, this policy sacrifices a woman's health in order to control and limit her fertility.

In her essay "High-Tech, Pop-A-Pill Culture", April J. Taylor links the birth control push in less developed countries to marketing efforts in this country that target black women for Norplant and Depo-Provera. Judging from where they chose to advertise (in magazines such as Essence), the makers of these products have decided that black women are the demographic that they want to go after. Taylor argues that the danger of this is that black women have specific health risks (such as increased risk for high blood pressure and certain cancers) that put them more at risk for the side of effects of these birth control methods. The side effects of Norplant and Depo-Provera include increased risk of breast cancer, nausea, anemia, depression, and ovarian cysts.

One of the real strengths of *Dangerous Intersections* is its inclusiveness of issues that would at first appear to be peripheral, if not completely separate, from the debate around population and the environment. In her chapter, "Power of the Word", Meredith Tax examines how women are targeted globally for censorship, especially when writing about or publicizing issues of male dominance. Tax writes, "The subordination of women is basic to all social systems based on violence." Because the vast majority of the poorest people in the world are women, and because this population has the closest interdependence with the immediate environment, "any movement for real transformation must make the demands of women central."

Dangerous Intersections provides some startling statistics. For instance, the Pentagon (among the world's largest polluters) produces a ton of toxic waste per minute (more than damaging to the Earth than the effects of the entire population of some countries). The average person in Central America eats less beef each year that the average US house cat. The wealthiest 20 percent of the world's population (which includes the majority of the US population, and even those of us who think we don't have a lot compared to Bill Gates) consumes 16 times more energy and 17 times more wood than the poorest 20 percent.

Reading *Dangerous Intersections* was very enlightening for me. Although one of the aims of the book is to dismantle sexist and racist views on overpopulation, it did not make me feel complacent about the environmental effects of humans. Instead, it really fired me up to want to address the real problem – the 1.1 billion of us who consume more energy, gasoline, and wood products than we have a right to, and produce more in waste products than our world can ever support. Until those of us in the US take stock of our own environmental impact and our dependency on the people and resources in the southern hemisphere, we should just keep our mouths shut about the so-called problem of overpopulation. ◆

THE DANGER ROOM COMICS
* Alternative & Mainstream Comics
* Comic-related Items (t's, pins'n stuff)
* Magic The Gathering
* Role Playing Games & supplies
OPEN MON.-SAT.
705-3050
201 W. Fourth Ave., Olympia
(corner of 4th & Columbia)

YOU CAN SPONSOR A SUBSCRIPTION TO A PRISONER
SEE PAGE 2

Throwing Away the Key

Ron Jacobs

As we head into the twenty-first century, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. The reasons for this are primarily the war on drugs and the change in penological philosophy from one of rehabilitation (or even punishment) to one of banishment. This is what lies behind the so-called "three-strikes and you're out" laws and initiatives like Measure 11 in Oregon which establish mandatory minimums for certain crimes. There is no attempt involved in these endeavors to seek justice, only a desire for revenge and a pretense that these prisoners are less than human and therefore deserve only a life behind bars or, in some cases, death by the state.

Prisons as Strategic Hamlets

The underlying philosophy of imprisonment in the 1990s is control of demographic groups considered surplus by the corporate world order. This means, among other things, a move away from interest in the individual offender and a shift of focus to what many penologists call "control of aggregates". These aggregates, or groups, are primarily composed of young men of color, although the numbers of women from these same groups continue to grow. In the wake of industrial job flight from their neighborhoods, their presence outside of prison has become increasingly threatening to the ruling structures. As members of these groups turn toward other endeavors to make a living—endeavors often illegal—the punishment for their actions has become increasingly harsher. In addition, new laws enacted to either enhance current legislation or to make even more actions illegal encourage police to concentrate their enforcement efforts on these groups. This trend is not worldwide, however. In fact, with the exception of the U. S. and the United Kingdom, most other western countries have softened their penalties (or decriminalized them completely) for drug possession and other victimless crimes. In addition, these countries are attempting to find other means of dealing with persons convicted of crime that do not involve incarceration.

In the United States however, the population and practices of prisons reflect the new concerns of those who imprison. It is the belief of these folks and the legislators who write the laws regulating crime that the only way to stop crime and acts which oppose their plans is to make the latter illegal and to lock up as many perpetrators as possible. If these concerns could be portrayed with one image, that image would be the well-armed drug dealer. Furthermore, that drug dealer would be either an African-American, a Latino immigrant, young and usually male, although in recent years, the incarceration rate of women has increased dramatically. The fact that this image has come to represent imprisonment and criminality to the population proves the effectiveness of the prevalent approach to penology as the 20th century ends.

Within the prisons themselves, alarming changes have been made as a result of this philosophical change. Perhaps foremost among these changes are longer prison sentences which are often the result of mandatory sentencing and, in many locales, a "three strikes" policy which mandates life imprisonment for a third conviction on a felony. This has led to vast overcrowding in the United States despite an unprecedented surge in prison construction, and the highest incarceration rate in the world. The tangential effects of this practice are seen in the reduction in public funding for education and social welfare programs as policing and imprisonment take a higher and higher percentage of said funds. For example, in California, where the prison population is six times larger than it was in the late 1970s, the 1996 budget called for more spending on prisons and punishment than on higher education. This trend is replicated across the country. In fact, between 1987 and 1995 spending on corrections rose by 30 per cent while spending on elementary and secondary education shrank 1.2 percent and higher education spending fell by 30 per cent.

Architecturally, this mission of control has meant the creation of what American prison administrators and prisoners commonly refer to as "super-max" prisoners. Super-max means super-maximum-security and can now be found in several states and in the federal prison system. Although not completely new to the U.S. system—Alcatraz was a super-max prison in its time—the current version utilizes the most advanced security technology, psychological intimidation, and some of the most brutal guards. Prisoners' movements are severely restricted and time outside of their individual cells is minimal if at all. Once in, it is very difficult for a prisoner to leave such a unit until his/her sentence is up.

The New Slave Colonies

Part of the reason for the upsurge in prison populations is simple: somebody is making money from incarceration. In addition to the drug war dynamic which perpetuates not only the need for higher number of drug arrests but also the need for continued violation of the drug laws in order to justify its existence, prisons themselves are a growing business. Whether it is a company who manufactures or provides equipment used in corrections, a company whose business is building prisons, or the growing industry of staffing privatized prisons, there is money to be made. In addition, the growing contracting of inmates in manufacturing and services by outside industry has created a need for this new element of the labor force. Like death row prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal wrote in one of his many commentaries, "Under a regime where more bodies equal more profits, prisons take one big step closer to their historical ancestor, the slave pen." Another aspect to the privatization of prisons (and the use of prisoners as labor) is the question of whether the role of these institutions is rehabilitation, punishment or merely the assurance that taxpayer subsidized labor will continue to be provided.

Corporations who do contract prison labor range from Starbucks Coffee to the Boeing Corporation. The work is presented to prisoners, legislators and the public as work experience and job opportunities when in reality they are cheap labor opportunities for the participating corporations. With the government assuming costs for all living expenses and a workforce unwilling to challenge labor abuse and other questionable practices for fear of retaliation by prison officials, it is a near perfect environment for the corporation.

As corporate globalism continues to precipitate a shift of more and more capital to the financial capitals of the north, immigration from the poorer countries follows. This has created a problem of controlling these population flows for the receiving countries. The preferred solution seems to be imprisonment in detention centers and/or the cordoning off of neighborhoods where most of the residents are immigrants (usually of Latino or Asian origin). This separation of the immigration population, while nominally temporary, has in reality created a whole new policing apparatus within the U.S. which has fewer limitations on its enforcement capabilities due to the uncertain legal status of some of its subjects. There are enough tales of immigrants who have landed in an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detention center only to get lost in a Kafkaesque legal maze for years to safely state that these incidents are not accidents of the system but part of its process.

In the United States, one the primary reasons for such tales of distress is the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. A major aspect of this law is the refusal of asylum to immigrants convicted of a crime, no matter how small, no matter how long ago in their past. Previously, many of these immigrants were eligible for parole. Now they are assigned to a prison, oftentimes after being discovered during a workplace raid by Immigration officials. Like prisons for citizens, monetary reasons motivate the rise in imprisonment of immigrants, as well. Many county and city budgets receive large sums of money from the INS, as do private prisons. This dynamic, just as in the rest of the prison world, does not encourage administrators to seek out alternatives to imprisonment.

Add the desire to control behavior which threatens the middle-class quality of life and the subsequent desire to exile those who exhibit said behavior, and one has the quotient that drives the current imprisonment philosophy. Perhaps the most tragic part of this quotient is that, after the incredible struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, prisons and those they house are once again relegated to a second-class status, if that. What this means for the rest of society is not good, given that the treatment of prisoners in history usually spells out future treatment for other societal subgroups the rulers wish would disappear. ◆

Like prisons for citizens, monetary reasons motivate the rise in imprisonment of immigrants, as well. This dynamic does not encourage administrators to seek out alternatives to imprisonment.

Making Death Row Personal

Texas Prisoners Seek Penpals

Books To Prisoners Page

Lamp of Hope

These death row prisoners are seeking penpals. Please browse through their introductions below. You may write them via this address:
Prisoner's name and number
Ellis Unit
Huntsville, Texas 77343

Jeffery Lynn Williams, #999154

I am a 25 year old Black male from Houston, TX. I'm single and would like to hear from anyone.

My favorite hobbies include soul music, reading, writing poetry, drawing and working out. I'm a big fan of nature. I like the Discovery Channel. I like all sports, some more than others.

I will answer all letters, from overseas and the US. Age of person doesn't matter. I enjoy older and mature persons.

Frank A. Williams, Jr., #999168

I am a white male, 25 years old, I am looking for people who are interested in writing to someone that is in my situation. I have no requirements as far as age or sex are concerned.

I prefer a more mature person. I've found through experience that younger people tend to get bored and move on. I need friendships that are real and not someone's temporary urge.

I am a native Texan. I'm 6'4" tall, weigh 240 lbs. And have brown hair and blue eyes. I've been on death row for two years. My hobbies in this environment are writing and a lot of reading. I enjoy music. I am especially interested in writing someone in the educational field. I am decently educated but want to learn more and to improve myself.

I welcome any and all that are interested in writing to drop me a line and my response is guaranteed.

Gregory Vanalstyne #999034

I am 31 years old, I am black and I was born and raised in California. Pomona is my old stomping ground. 6'1" and 220 lbs. I like sports basketball and football. I like to read science fiction, horror and just good novels.

I'm single with three kids which I love and miss dearly. I like jazz, classic rock and slow music I was a truck driver and miss the open road I've been all over the country. I would like to hear from a kind, good-hearted woman, age does NOT matter, personality and understanding does. Be fun-loving and love to laugh. Married, single, with or without kids doesn't matter. Will love to hear from you and I WILL write back.

My case is still in the state courts. But I can use help with legal issues and funds for an attorney and/or investigator. I did NOT get a fair trial. My fall partner got life for testifying against me I got death. I can give details to you when you write me back. Hope to hear from you soon.

Max Alexander Soffar #685

I am 44 on the 15th, a white male, 6 ft., 190 pounds, brown hair and eyes, Jewish. I have no family and am looking for friends. Someone to count on. My mom and dad have passed away since my coming to Death Row in 1980. I am single with no children.

I would like to receive mail and visits from sincere people. I will answer everyone. I want someone to care. Nothing matters more!

I will answer any and all questions about my conviction for capital murder. I was charged with three counts of capital murder during an armed robbery. I've been on death row 17 years. I build clocks, jewelry boxes, and other craft items to pass the time. All mail welcomed.

Jack Smith #615

I am a 60-year-old male, from Houston, Texas and I have been on death row singe August 10, 1978 more than 20 years.

My interest besides staying alive, are: I do craft work, cross-stitching and make all kinds of things such as clocks, Bible covers, almost anything that would interest people.

I am looking for a friend, maybe someone from Texas who I could visit with if the person would like to visit.

I have a good heart and friendship is very important to me and I seek a person who feels the same way.

Mr. Kia L. Johnson, #999139

I would very much like to have a few penpals to correspond with. I am currently on Texas' Death Row and I have been here almost two and a half years. I thought it would be a good time for me to meet a pen-friend or two.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I am 32 years of age, 6 feet 2 inches tall and 180 pounds. I am of African American decent. My time is devoted to reading literature on my African American heritage and I am studying law.

However, there are several very positive factors occurring concerning my case on appeal and, hopefully, one day I will regain my rightful freedom!

I'm pretty sure that a lot of people wonder what is the worst part of serving a "Death Sentence". For me it's losing so many people to the execution chamber.... especially the close, respectable people that I consider my friend. Then there's the boredom of state of mind. My reading, nor anything I could do in here could possibly take the place or pass the time like an important friend on the outside or someone that understands and cares about my welfare and what happens to me.

Nathaniel Barley, #999052

I am 33 years of age. I am a single African-American who is seeking a penpal to correspond with while I am here.

I would love to write to someone in the US or a foreign county. My hobbies are listening to love songs, dancing, writing and reading. Personality wise, I am a caring and loving person who's honest toward others and open hearted. I consider others to be open hearted and sympathetic toward others feelings too.

Through this friendship, we can stand by each other in difficult times as these here are.

We can comfort each other in times of need. I hope we can share some viewpoints about life in a foreign country through the beauty of each other's eyes in a distant place. A friend in need, a friend in deed.

Randolph M. Greer, DR #999042

I am a 24 year old African American male who has been incarcerated for the past 6 years on a capital murder conviction. I have been fighting that conviction for the past 5 years from Texas' Death Row.

I am from North Carolina, where my family and my beautiful daughter still remain. Having no family support here in Texas made it very easy for me to be convicted in Harris County, a county that has sent more men to Death Row than any STATE in the nation!

There are many inconsistencies in my trial, but fighting a capital murder conviction is a long, lengthy and time-consuming process that requires a thorough investigation and proper representation. I am trying to obtain the necessary help to make this possible. I am looking for people who are willing to help me this process.

With my family so far away, they are only able to keep in touch through letters. They come once a year to visit which is the only time that I am able to visit with my daughter.

I want to be able to one day return home to my beautiful daughter. I need help to make this possible. I could use some friends for moral support and also those to help with my case.

Carl Blue, #999151

I've been incarcerated on Death Row for two (2) years. I have become depressed and withdrawn to the point that I feel locked up inside of myself.

However, a fellow Death Row inmate insisted I try and find a friend on the outside.

Although I am locked up in what is known here as 'total darkness", to exchange letters with someone is a hope of brightening up your day and mine as well. I feel the need to talk with someone, because facing each day alone is total madness.

I'm hoping to exchange letters with someone mature, humorous, understanding, caring, open-minded, able to be themselves, and willing to share a little sunshine with a lonely death row prisoner. I am looking for someone who I can share with on all levels of life and they do the same in return.

In short, hopefully we'll become good friends.

The Lamp of Hope Project was founded by Texas Death Row prisoners. This nonprofit organization's goals include:
• To educate the public about the death penalty and alternatives;
• To support victims' families by promoting healing and reconciliation; and
• To support prisoners' families, thereby breaking the cycle of violence.

The information posted by the Lamp of Hope Project for penpals is information provided by prisoners. The Lamp of Hope Project does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

Books to Prisoners December Events

• Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of the business formerly known as Bulldog News. *Training takes 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime we are open.*

• **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month (Dec. 19th), 3 pm at 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia

• Turn in Bayview and Ralph's receipts. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.

• **Save UPC code from Western Family Products &** send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:
Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generosity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanacs, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

• Any other good books

• Stamps and stamp money

• Money for tape, wrapping paper, and copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the business formerly known as Bulldog New at 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Hours: Currently, the business hours are from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm daily. After hours donations possible by appointment. Please call the message phone below and leave a message.

Address: Books to Prisoners , 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Message Phone: (360)943-2375

(Take Back, continued)

as different from other men. And because this kind of violence is personal. It is difficult for people to talk about. And it has to end.

Barbara Abegg, from the National Organization of Women, talked about what the fundamentalist religious government is doing to women in Afghanistan. They have been made slaves confined to their homes. If they rebel, they are killed in public by the government. The suicide rate among women is soaring.

Nataki Jett read a couple poems. One that she wrote has the line, " why are we so afraid of each other?" Maybe because we need each other so much.

Neva Reece, in her wonderful voice, sang a couple songs.

Victoria Hill and Marie Poland led the group in the Goddess Chant.

Rosalinda Noreiga gave a powerful speech. She began it by holding up a picture of a woman in a bathing suit in an ad in The Stranger. The woman in the ad was being used to sell something (not bathing suits.) The impact of such ads is to create the impression that women are not real, that they don't care. That's what the culture is saying to men. (Men saying this to each other about women)

She said only 3 percent of reported rapes end in conviction of the attacker.

She talked about various ways men and our society sanction violence. The other is always less of a human being than the attacker. The one who wins is right, the vanquished is wrong. It is never a contest of equals. There is always a reason the vanquished deserved to be beaten.

She closed by telling us we are part of history in the making, we can "imagine a new way of being... we have gathered to witness life."

Monica Peabody, from the Olympia Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, told us that 60 percent of single mothers left the father because of domestic violence. That "welfare reform is economic war on women."

Sarah Richardson, one of the event organizers, began the march. Candles were lighted to remember the survivors of assault and the women marched into the night.

The men remained behind to participate in a discussion facilitated by Glen Anderson about ways to prevent violence and sexual assault. This mens group is meeting again December 16, at 7:00.

This was an emotionally powerful evening for most of the people there. We do not have to accept the violence in the world we have been born into. We can find peaceful ways to oppose it. And we must. Blake said, "Life delights in life." And as Rosalinda Noreiga put it, "we have gathered to witness life." Even though life is amazingly powerful, it demands our attention and care. A candle burning in eternal darkness. ◆

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

Briefs, continued

share (vegans like to share too when they can eat your food)

*DANCE - Bring a song to share from your favorite CD or tape

*GAMES - Bring a party game to play

*STORY TIME - Share tales of the WTO, Mumia and other actions

*SHOW & TELL - Share pictures, artwork, stories, ideas

*DISCUSSION - Where do we go from here, what now?

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Tuesday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

Tenants Union

Problems with your landlord? Want to know your rights under the law? Come to the Thurston County Tenants Union public legal clinic and meeting the second Monday of every month. Clinic starts at pm and the meeting begins at 7pm.

Monday, December 13th, 6pm
Olympia Timberland Library

Call our direct access hotline at 357-0615 for information about your rights and the meeting.

Dance O' Dance

Free Show, Open Invitation, Any Age, Any Style: The Millennium episode of Dance O' Dance will be on Friday Dec 10 from 8-9pm.... technicians arrive by 6pm, dancers by 7pm... we tape Live in TCTV's studio A, 440 Yauger Way. Reruns on Fridays NOW at 8, but Wednesdays STILL at 4pm. "Dance O' Dance" is in its fourth season on TCTV. Reserve a place by calling 866-4524 or e-mailing justinb@writeme.com and visit the website www.danceodance.com

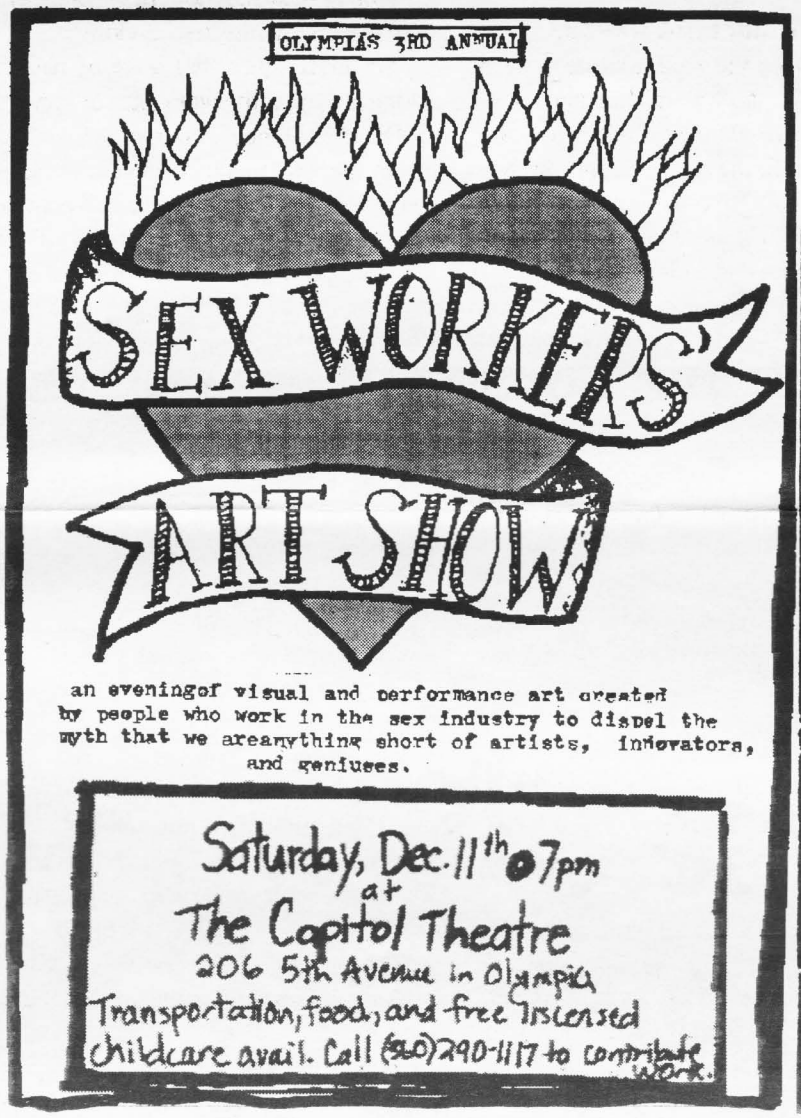
Seattle P/T Job Opportunity

Responsible evening OFFICE ASSISTANT for feminist/left organization.

SKILLS NEEDED: Good typing, phone answering, xeroxing, inventory control, project coordination, and housekeeping.

15 hours per week, 6-9pm Monday through Friday $6.25/hr to start. Union shop.

To apply call: 206/722-2453 and ask for Luma or Anne New Freeway Hall 5018 Rainier Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98118


OLYMPIA'S 3RD ANNUAL
SEX WORKERS'
ART SHOW
an evening of visual and performance art created by people who work in the sex industry to dispel the myth that we are anything short of artists, innovators, and geniuses.
Saturday, Dec. 11th @ 7pm
at
The Capitol Theatre
206 5th Avenue in Olympia
Transportation, food, and free licensed childcare avail. Call (360)290-1117 to contribute work.

In 1973, KAOS began as a bold experiment in broadcasting. Since that time, we have grown into the South Sound's listener-supported community radio station. Now more than ever, we at KAOS are committed to:

LOCAL VOICES

INDEPENDENT MUSIC

GLOBAL NEWS

KAOS 89.3 fm

OLYMPIA COMMUNITY RADIO

http://www.kaosradio.org

Get your very own poster!

Everyone Deserves a Fair Trial

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

These are *the* authentic posters previously printed in the pages of *Works In Progress.*

* 11 x17 for *Mumia*
* 22 x 34 for *No War*

= Act now and get a 11x17 size *Stop The Sanctions on Iraq* poster absolutely free with purchase of *No War*

Send $1 for one or $1.50 for both to :

WIP PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507

(Sorry no COD's. Allow one week for delivery)

Get yours today!

NO WAR

1 Asphalt Plant In Nisqually Basin? & DSHS Report Card

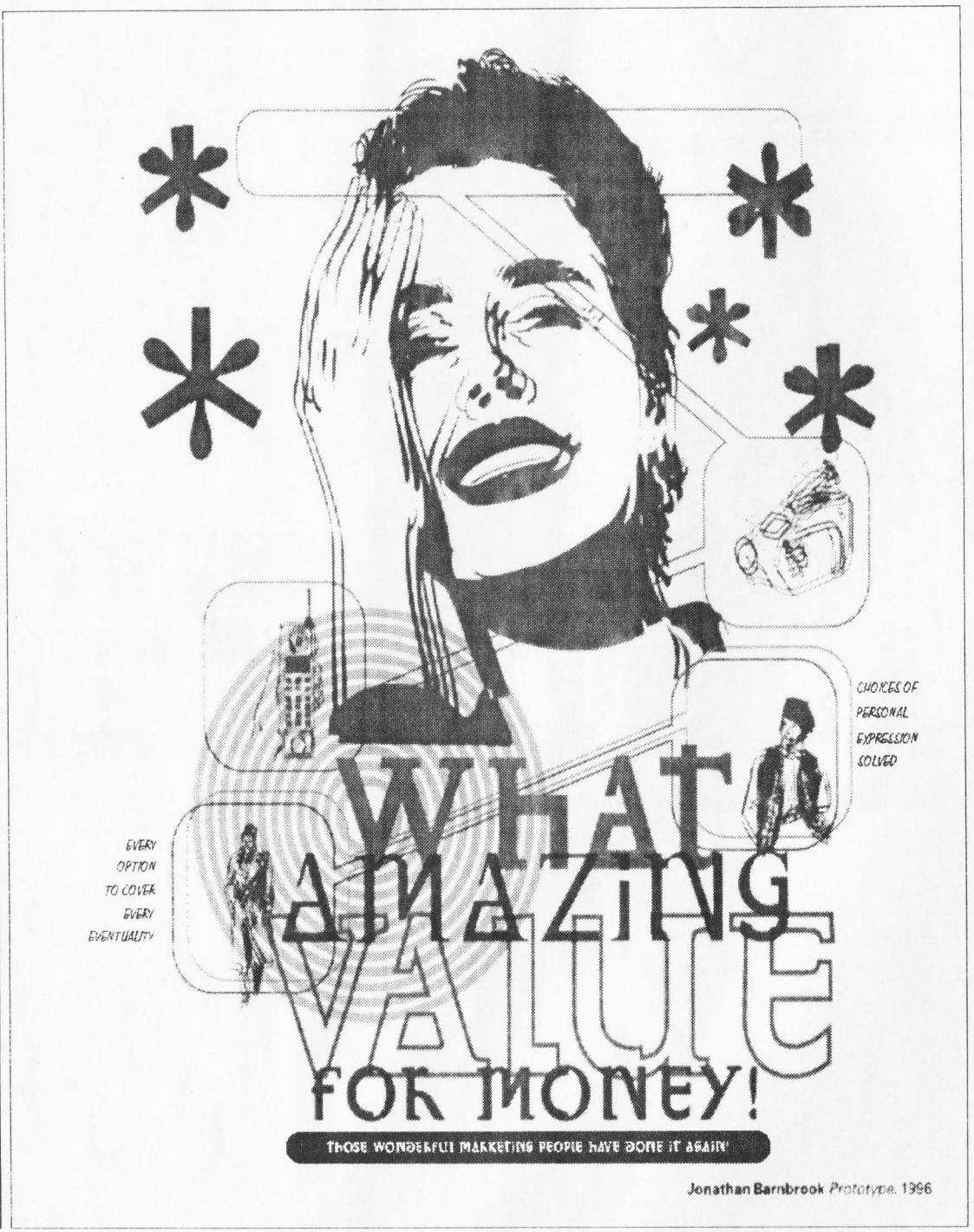
6 *Crossing the Line* Cynical Optimist

8 Book Review *Dangerous Intersections*

9 U.S. Prisons Throwing Away The Key

10 WANTED: Death Row Penpals

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507


CHOICES OF PERSONAL EXPRESSION SOLVED
EVERY OPTION TO COVER EVERY EVENTUALITY
WHAT AMAZING VALUE FOR MONEY!
THOSE WONDERFUL MARKETING PEOPLE HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!

Jonathan Barnbrook *Prototype*, 1996

WORKS IN PROGRESS

DECEMBER 1999 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION FREE

FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL, LEONARD PELTIER, AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

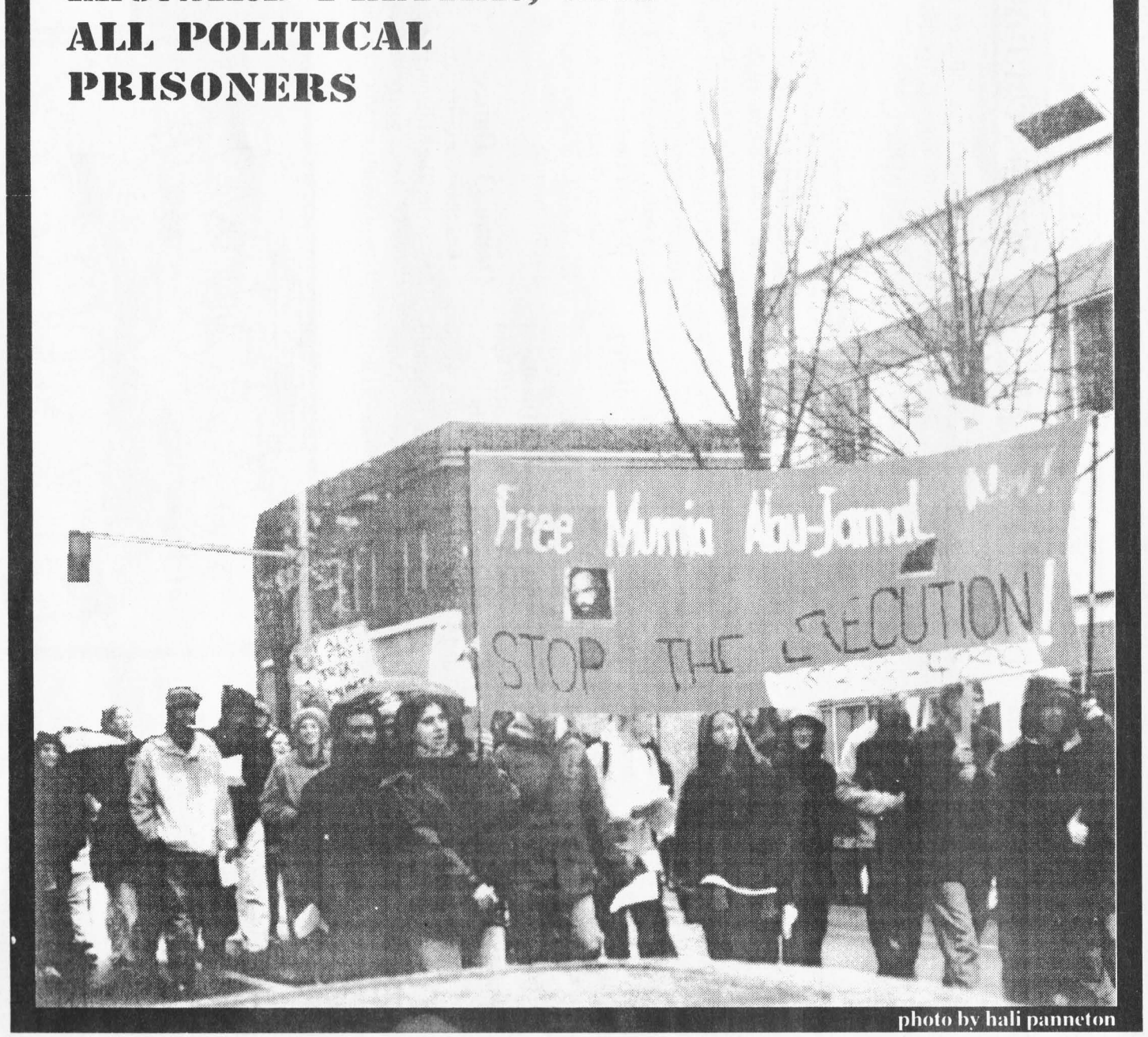


photo by hali panneton